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### President William Fremont Blackman and His Administration 1902 - 1915

Rollins College

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PRESIDENT  
WILLIAM FREMONT BLACKMAN  
AND HIS  
ADMINISTRATION  
1902 - 1915



ROLLINS COLLEGE BULLETIN

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**WILLIAM FREMONT BLACKMAN (1855-1932)**

1877	A.B., Oberlin College
1880	B.D., Yale Divinity School, Yale U.
1893	Ph.D., Cornell University
1910	LL.D., University of Florida

## PURPOSE OF THIS BULLETIN

The first three great presidents of Rollins College have been variously honored. A dormitory for men erected in 1935 bears the name of the Founding President, Dr. Edward Payson Hooker. The record of his remarkable administration, 1885-1892, appeared in the *Bulletin* of December, 1955, under the title "The First Seven Years of Rollins College."

The unique achievements of the second great president of Rollins were recounted in the *Bulletin* of December, 1958, under the title "President George Morgan Ward and His Three Administrations." To honor his memory the Trustees established the George Morgan Ward Medal to be awarded those who have exemplified the ideals for which he stood and the sacrifices he made in general for the cause of Christian Education and in particular for Rollins.

The Trustees have also established the William Fremont Blackman Medal to honor the memory of the third great president of Rollins "who ever maintained that it should be the ideals of quality, high standards, and fineness of result which should distinguish Rollins among its peers." Its purpose is to recognize distinguished contributions for the advancement of those ideals.

This *Bulletin* includes a brief interpretation of President Blackman's career as preacher, scholar, teacher, author, editor, educator and Florida leader, an outline of his administration and a brief chronological statement of his life. He established the first income-producing Endowment Fund to help Rollins balance its budget; he also raised Endowment Funds for the Library and Science Buildings as well as for Scholarships. Three main buildings and four others were added during his administration.

President Blackman acquired for Rollins through the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, full academic recognition; and he strengthened its reputation as a leader among small colleges of liberal arts in the Lower Southeast.





## ROLLINS COLLEGE IN 1902

President George Morgan Ward's first administration, 1896-1902, was a struggle to hold the college in existence during a time of grim economic disaster following the Great Freeze. Yet, in his resignation he wrote: "I can pass on to my successor a full school and a treasury whose accounts have stood balanced for two years . . . ."

At the suggestion of J. H. Whittemore, a Connecticut industrialist and since its founding a generous supporter of the college, the name of Dr. William Fremont Blackman was recommended as President Ward's successor.

Throughout its first seventeen years, Rollins had held unswervingly to its original object which, as the charter expressed it " . . . shall never be changed . . . " of maintaining an institution of higher education "distinctively Christian in character, but wholly unsectarian."

In 1902, when Dr. Blackman became President there were four Charter Trustees who had served continuously since the founding: Rev. Charles M. Bingham, William C. Comstock, Rev. Sullivan F. Gale, and ex-President Edward P. Hooker. Prominent trustees carried over from the preceding administration were: Edward H. Brewer, Cortland, N. Y., Louis F. Dommerich, New York, Rev. Edward P. Herrick, Matanzas, Cuba, Rev. John N. McGonigle, St. Augustine, William R. O'Neal, Orlando, George A. Rollins, Chicago (brother of the founder, Alonzo W. Rollins), and William C. Temple, Pittsburgh and Winter Park. Of the twenty-four trustees, sixteen were Congregationalists, four were Presbyterians, and the Episcopal, Methodist and Lutheran denominations were represented.

Also in 1902 there were twenty-two Faculty to instruct and guide a student body of 126 drawn from Florida, the Southeastern states, the Eastern seaboard and the Middlewest, with an additional eight students from Cuba and one from the Philippines. Pre-eminent in point of seniority was Thomas R. Baker, Ph.D. University of Goettingen, Germany, Natural Sciences, who had taught during the Hooker Administration. Other faculty carried over from the Ward Administration were: Vice-President Oliver C. Morse, A.B., Yale, Bible Study; Dean of the Faculty Robert R. Kendall, A.B., Yale, B.D., Yale Theological Seminary, Greek; Professor Susan A. Longwell, English and History; and Professor Frances E. Lord, Latin. Faculty members added during the Blackman Administration are listed in the Chronology of the Blackman Administration.

In addition to the courses leading to the baccalaureate degree, special courses were offered in Business Administration, Music, Fine and Expressive Arts.

Though progress was being made in the number and standing of high schools in Florida, an Academy was still needed to give Florida students the thorough preparation required by the high standards of admission to Rollins. Professor Caroline H. Abbott, who had been on the Faculty since 1892, supervised the Academy. In 1900, in association with Dean Elijah C. Hills, Professor Abbott had been invited by President Charles W. Eliot to help organize the Summer School for Cuban Teachers held at Harvard that year.

The campus, less than one-fourth its present size, comprised eight wooden buildings. Six of these were set around the Horseshoe Drive:

Knowles Hall, 1886	Chapel, classrooms and offices
Pinehurst Cottage, 1886	} — Dormitories for men
Lakeside Cottage, 1886	
Dining Hall, 1886	—
Lyman Gymnasium, 1890	Athletics and auditorium
Cloverleaf Cottage, 1891	Dormitory for women.

Immediately adjacent to the campus on the east was the Music Hall, built in 1885 as the home of Professor John H. Ford, and given to the college in May, 1902. Four blocks north, the President's House, built two years before the college was founded, had originally been the home of Frederick W. Lyman, founding trustee.

Strangely enough, although the college was known in many sections of the country, it was little known in the state. At the turn of the present century, Florida was still in a pioneer condition. Communications and transportation between even the larger towns were so limited that Rollins and other Florida colleges had but a local reputation at best. As President Blackman expressed it: "The college and the state were beginning to find their place . . . ."

However, Rollins had no endowment of any kind. It lived from hand to mouth on benevolences from individuals and gifts from Congregational Church sources.

## WILLIAM FREMONT BLACKMAN

### TRAINING:

William Fremont Blackman was descended from an early New England family. His father, John S. Blackman, was described as " . . . a man of lucid mind, of wide sympathy, of profound faith, and irreproachable character . . . . " Young Blackman's own naturally serious approach to life was moulded by the three institutions of higher learning he attended. In his young manhood, Oberlin's tradition of "plainest living and higher thinking" and its pride in maintaining the principles of applied democracy provided a solid foundation. While making more

"A" than "B" grades, he was active as an orator, a chorister, an officer of the Theological Society, the Musical Union, and the Union Library Association. At Yale Divinity School he acquired the professional skills in his chosen career, that of the Christian ministry. Finally he turned to the field of higher education as an end in itself, and by means of the "essentially scientific training . . ." of the Cornell Graduate School, he took the Ph.D. in sociology, *magna cum laude*. A year of studies at the Royal Statistical Bureau, University of Berlin, and lectures at the College de France in Paris together with extensive travel in Europe, brought further toward maturity a cosmopolitan mind and personality of wide interest and versatile ability which came to full fruition during his years at Rollins.

#### SERVICES TO THE CHURCH:

After his ordination in 1880, Mr. Blackman was pastor of the Congregational Church in Steubenville, Ohio, for five years, which was followed by a six-year ministry at the Congregational Church, Naugatuck, Connecticut. The next two years were spent as pastor of the Congregational Church, Ithaca, New York, while pursuing studies for his doctorate at Cornell. Although he then turned to the education field, President Blackman remained active in the church. Upon joining the faculty of the Yale Divinity School, he introduced into its chapel a service which was afterwards adopted by the Yale undergraduate chapel. At Rollins, he modelled the chapel service in Knowles Hall on that of Yale, using the Hebrew canticle *Omnia Benedicite* in antiphonal form. He preached each of the thirteen baccalaureate sermons at Rollins during his administration, responded to invitations to preach in Presbyterian and Congregational churches throughout Florida, gave high school baccalaureate sermons, served as President of the 23rd annual session of the South Florida Association of Congregational Churches, and took satisfaction in being a lay-reader at All Saints Episcopal Church in Winter Park. The splendor of his resonant speaking tones and of his singing voice deeply influenced his hearers. He was also an accomplished organist.

#### TEACHER:

President Blackman entered the teaching profession in 1894, when he became Professor of Christian Ethics in the Yale Divinity School. In 1901, he was Lecturer in Social Philosophy and Ethics in the Yale Graduate School. At Rollins he taught the courses in Sociology, Economics and Politics. As an educator, his sociological interests became uppermost and in his inaugural address, April 6, 1903, he defined the challenge of his new work as follows:

" . . . we have here, instead of a homogenous body of students such as most colleges have, a four-fold constituency, drawn from Florida and the territory adjacent thereto, from the New England states, from the Spanish-speaking population of Cuba, and from the American immigrants to that island . . . See, then, how unique our opportunity is! . . . Any boy who had studied at Rollins College cannot ever afterward hate the North nor despise the South. And to fashion here, in accordance with American ideas, leaders for the new life now dawning in Cuba, is not only to give vital assistance to that republic in the very 'nick of time', but is to help towards the larger problems concerning the management of the present and future tropical dependencies of the United States which we have to face. Altogether, I know not whether any other college has before it a more important or a more inspiring work."

Constantly he reiterated the theme of his educational philosophy:

"A college Rollins is, and will, I hope, remain. Its aim is not to extend the boundaries of human knowledge, nor to train expert investigators, nor to fit for professional life, but to breed in the young men and women who resort to it a Christian character and a fine and liberal culture which will make them worthy and happy citizens of this American Republic and of the Kingdom of Heaven . . . May it ever proclaim to the coming generations that life is more than meat and the body more than raiment; that no man, no state, no nation, can live by bread alone, but that the real life is the life of truth, of goodness, of duty and of love."

#### AUTHOR:

Dr. Blackman was the author of *The Making of Hawaii — A Study in Social Evolution* (Macmillan, 1899), the following commentary on which was made by a reviewer in *The Outlook*: "The book will be an authority to future students of the political and social problems presented by Hawaii, and suggestive to those who are studying similar problems in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines." President Blackman also wrote the *History of Orange County* (1927) which recounted the early days of the area in which Rollins was founded. He wrote numerous pamphlets, critical essays, and articles. He contributed an article on Rollins in the *Home Missionary* of September, 1907, and chapter VIII in Frank S. Jenkins's *Anglo-Saxon Congregationalism in the South*.

President Blackman's book reviews and critical essays in the *Yale Review*, during the years he was one of its five editors, reflected his research in sociology. The *Yale Review* is a quarterly for the scientific discussion of economics, politics and social questions. Its reputation was national, due to the substance and literary merit of its long, signed reviews, its notes, critical essays, and original poetry. President Blackman's principal reviews here included *The Principles of Sociology* and *Inductive Sociology* by Franklin H. Giddings, one of the foremost sociologists of the United States; *Introduction to Sociology* by Arthur Fair-



banks, nationally known as a student of the life and art of the Greeks; *The Social Teaching of Jesus* by the noted Shailer Mathews, and the *College Bred Negro* by W. E. B. DuBois, editor and writer.

Because of his studies abroad, President Blackman was able to review French and German works with equal facility. One of the latter was Professor Albert Eberhard Schaeffle's *Bau und Leben des Socialen Koerpers*, which was an immediate success and became one of Schaeffle's most appreciated and widely studied books in Germany, the United States, England and France. Dr. Blackman considered this book "as belonging to the greatest in the field of Sociology." Regarding Dr. Ludwig Stein's *Die Sociale Frage im Lichte der Philosophie*, Dr. Blackman mentioned as a special value the given classification of most of the sociological literature of the western world up to 1898.

In reviewing *Le socialisme et le mouvement social au XIXie siecle*, by Werner Sombart, Dr. Blackman's analysis was direct and clear, and his summary more representative than the chapter by chapter summary of the author himself. In his book review of *Le socialisme en Belgique*, by J. Destree, Dr. Blackman evaluated the work incisively for its sober grace and its rhythm so seldom found in modern writers.

Among President Blackman's pamphlets were his inaugural address, *Rollins — Its Field and Future* (1903), *The Increasing Cost of Living—Its Cause and Cure* (1912), and *The Economic Value of Birds to the Farmers and Fruit Growers* (1909) which went into three editions. His *Floridian's Creed and Covenant* was welcomed by his fellow educators in the state and distributed on printed cards through many of the public schools.

#### FLORIDA LEADER:

Dr. Blackman first came to Florida just before or about the year Rollins was founded. In 1884, his parents owned an orange grove at Altoona, in Lake County, Florida, and in 1886 a brother, E. V. Blackman, moved to Miami. President Blackman and his family visited in Altoona annually, and he himself set out a grove. He was already enthusiastic about Florida when he accepted the Presidency of Rollins.

Apart from his college responsibilities, his activities were many and productive of practical results. As early as 1905 he was elected Mayor of Winter Park. Four years later, he and other prominent citizens founded the Winter Park Board of Trade to answer two questions: "What is the matter with Winter Park?" and "What can be done to promote the interests of the town?" President Blackman was Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, Chairman of the Committee on Housing, and a member of the Parks Committee. It was in the latter role that 1912 found him corresponding with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad over the question of building a new depot at Winter Park which was erected in

1913. In 1911, he founded the Bank of Winter Park. Its first president, he remained at its head for seven years.

President Blackman's activities on the state level were accelerated in 1909. In October and November of that year, in company with the Hon. W. M. Holloway, State Superintendent of Education, George M. Lynch, Professor of Secondary Education at the University of Florida, and other educators, he made a "whistle-stop" campaign on behalf of the public schools of Central and South Florida, speaking from two to four times daily for better school buildings, higher qualified and paid teachers, higher taxes for school purposes and a compulsory attendance law. The following year, Governor Albert W. Gilchrist appointed him a member of the Florida State Commission to revise and codify the public school laws. The Commission included Superintendent Holloway and President A. A. Murphree, of the Florida State College for Women. President Blackman made two or three high school commencement addresses each year to carry forward this work.

In 1912 President Blackman was elected President of the Florida Conference of Charities and Correction, an organization of educators interested in sociological problems. His presidential report to the annual convention held at Tampa, December 7, 1912, was a major address entitled: "The Abnormal Classes — Causes and Treatment." His Presidency of the Florida Livestock Association reflected his activities as a cattle-rancher on the Wekiwa Ranch along the St. John's River, near Sanford. His appointment to the Livestock Sanitary Board, and his Chairmanship of its Tick Eradication Committee, were important factors in the state's cattle-tick eradication program.

In 1913 President Blackman was appointed to the Commission on Family Life of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. However, his multitudinous duties in Florida prevented him from being active at the national level.

A dedicated bird lover and conservationist, President Blackman joined the Florida Audubon Society upon his arrival in Winter Park. He worked closely with the founder, Louis F. Dommerich, during the latter's failing health. He became President of the Society in 1912, after Mr. Dommerich's death, and continued in that capacity until 1921. In 1929 he again served a term of one year as President, being thereafter Honorary President until his death closed thirty years of close association with the Society. During his presidency, he attended sessions of the Legislature urging the enactment of conservation laws, made trips of inspection to many of the great bird rookeries, served as Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, and carried on a vigorous campaign of conservation publicity. He lectured widely throughout the state on behalf of the protection of its



birds and other wild life. One of these lectures, "Economic Value of Birds to Farmers and Fruit Growers," given on May 19, 1909, before the Florida State Horticultural Society was distributed nationally as a pamphlet under that title. Rupert J. Longstreet, Florida educator and fellow worker in the Florida Audubon Society, remembers that "His generous and enthusiastic labors bore fruit in progressive conservation . . . ."

In recognition of his achievements as scholar, author, editor, preacher, educator, conservationist, lecturer, banker, and in general an outstanding Florida leader, President Blackman was honored by the University of Florida in June, 1910, with the degree of Doctor of Laws.

### MRS. BLACKMAN

Lucy Worthington Blackman was born at Steubenville, Ohio, on July 1, 1860. She was educated in private schools and by travel and study in London, Paris and Berlin. On her twenty-fourth birthday she married William Fremont Blackman in Washington, D. C., and shared with him his ministries in Steubenville, Naugatuck and Ithaca. Three children, Berkeley, Worthington, and Marjorie (Mrs. Glancy O. Wallace) were born in Naugatuck.

As Mrs. Wallace writes: "She spent her life helping President Blackman and upholding his hands with selfless devotion." Miss Mary L. Branham, '11, recalls that Mrs. Blackman was especially generous and gracious in her hospitality to students and faculty, and a notable hostess.

At Rollins, Mrs. Blackman inaugurated the department of Domestic and Industrial Arts, and taught courses for two years. She organized the Ladies Auxiliary of Rollins College, a group which drew into closer interest many of the wives of trustees and faculty to work for the good of the college. In one campaign, this group raised \$2,000. She entertained, as a house guest for two seasons, the eccentric and unpredictable Dr. Daniel K. Pearsons, the philanthropist, and thus assisted President Blackman to gain his goodwill and benevolence for Rollins. After President Blackman's retirement, she assisted her husband in the production of cattle and hogs at the Wekiwa Ranch, often spending at the age of fifty-eight a large part of each day on horseback.

During the time she lived at Ithaca, Mrs. Blackman was active in literary club circles. As soon as she arrived in Winter Park, she joined the Florida Audubon Society. In 1903, she was elected a member of its Executive Committee, and in 1930 Vice President. She was Vice President of the Women's School Improvement Association of Florida (1910), founder and Vice President of the Winter Park Women's Club (1915),



PRESIDENT AND MRS. BLACKMAN AT THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE

The President's House, located at the corner of Interlachen Avenue and Morse Boulevard opposite the Virginia Inn and overlooking Lake Osceola, was built in 1883 by one of the Founding Trustees, Frederick W. Lyman and was enlarged in 1888. Mr. Lyman presented it to Rollins in 1901; it was later sold by Rollins.

Before this historic house burned in 1959, Rollins College was given mantles from both fireplaces; paneling and the plate glass window in the living room; the front porch columns; the stair rail and newel posts; and some doors.



Chairman of the Department of Education and Literature, Florida Federation of Women's Clubs, Vice President (1921-1923), and President (1923-1926). During the latter years she was state representative, General Federation of Women's Clubs, and in 1926-1928, Chairman of the Department of Education of this organization. She was a life member, National Council of Women of the U.S.A., member, League of Women Voters, Florida State Horticultural Society, State Teachers Association, State Chamber of Commerce, State Livestock Association, and was elected first President of the Florida Business and Professional Women's Club but could not accept the office. She was awarded a medal in 1940 by the Winter Park Women's Club, honoring her as a pioneer clubwoman in Florida.

After President Blackman's death in 1932, Mrs. Blackman authored *The Florida Audubon Society, 1900-1935* (1935), and *The Women of Florida* (1940), two volumes.

Mrs. Blackman died at West Palm Beach, November 3, 1942, and is buried with her husband at Winter Park.

At the Rollins Semi-Centennial in 1935, President Hamilton Holt said in part as he conferred upon her the Rollins Decoration of Honor:

"Lucy Worthington Blackman, the services that you and your devoted husband have ever rendered, with consecrated and heroic sacrifices, to Rollins College and Winter Park can never fully be told. There is not an old student of this College who could not and would not testify to your devotion to the faculty and student body during the entire time that your husband was President of Rollins. Please now accept on behalf of the Trustees of the College that you and he have so truly loved and served, this recognition of a life spent here in the service of others. I have the greatest pleasure in presenting you with the Rollins Decoration of Honor, and admitting you to all its rights and privileges."

#### **ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT BLACKMAN 1902 - 1915**

The first need in the stabilizing process undertaken by President Blackman was the establishment of an income-producing endowment. Buildings were badly needed, while a third important consideration was the necessity of providing for the retirement of professors.

The establishment in 1905 of the University of Florida and Florida State College for Women drew to those institutions many students who otherwise would have attended the independent colleges such as Rollins. The founding of several denominational colleges receiving students as well as financial support from their own churches left the non-denominational Rollins College at a disadvantage. The depression in 1907, and increasing inflation, added to the financial strain. Finally, the underdeveloped system of public schools (which operated only for three

months of the year in some areas,) was unable to feed into these colleges and universities a sufficient number of adequately prepared students.

The only independent, non-sectarian liberal arts college in the state, Rollins was determined to continue her leadership of upholding high academic standards in the Lower Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina). In a contribution to the *Third Annual Report of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching* (1908), President Blackman made the position of Rollins clear:

"... I would say that ... the academic conditions hitherto and at present maintained by the Carnegie Foundation should not be relaxed so far as the state of Florida is concerned. In many high schools the work is not well done, but this is the fault not of the course of study but of indifferent teachers and undeveloped public sentiment. The unfortunate lowering of the college standards will be sooner corrected if the Carnegie Foundation steadfastly maintains here the conditions which it imposes elsewhere."

Such a policy of academic advancement required the raising of large sums for an income-producing endowment.

#### **ENDOWMENT FUND AND OTHER GIFTS**

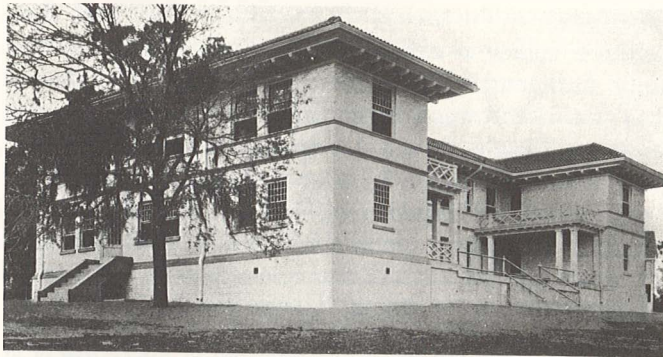
On the morning of President Blackman's Inauguration, April 6, 1903, the Board of Trustees met in special session.

Waiting in the ante-room was Dr. Daniel K. Pearsons, eccentric philanthropist who had retired from business and was engaged in giving away his entire fortune of \$5,000,000. He, himself, estimated that in the course of his 83 years he had not spent as much as \$20 on amusements. To earn his gifts, recipient colleges were required to triple from other sources the sum he offered.

Dr. Pearsons was convinced that the meagerly endowed colleges of the West and South were of utmost importance to the future of America. He selected some 40 of these for his benevolences, including such small colleges of Congregational heritage as Beloit, Knox, Pomona, and Whitman. Brusque in manner, careless in attire, sagacious and penurious in small matters, his keen mind and kindly heart were opened to those who penetrated his outward peculiarities. While a house guest of President and Mrs. Blackman he had poked into every corner of the campus and had satisfied himself, thoroughly, that Rollins was worthy of his support.

When the Trustees invited Dr. Pearsons on April 6 to attend their special session, he laid before them the following letter:

"I will give you fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) if you will raise one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000). I will give you one year to raise the money. This money is for permanent endowment, only the income can ever be used. The original sum of \$200,000 must be kept intact forever and forever for the use and benefit of Rollins College."



**Chase Hall, dormitory for men, overlooking Lake Virginia, was built in 1908.**

The Trustees voted to accept Dr. Pearsons's offer, and placed the planning and management of the campaign to raise the matching funds of \$150,000 in President Blackman's hands. In this he was ably assisted by Vice President Oliver C. Morse, and Treasurer William Russell O'Neal.

At other ceremonies later that day, April 6, 1903, Dr. Pearsons told of his offer urging everyone to contribute, even the children with their pennies. He ended his address by turning to President Blackman and saying:

"One year from today we will meet again in this room to count the money that has been collected and turn over my check for \$50,000. I know you and your people will raise the money . . . I tell you it does a man's heart good to give, and to give bountifully."

Several members of the Board of Trustees led off with subscriptions, and other old and staunch friends of Rollins followed with varying amounts. Yet on the day of the deadline, April 14, 1904 (Dr. Pearsons's 84th birthday) the matching funds were still some \$20,000 short. After a day of desperate effort by President Blackman, Vice President Morse, and Treasurer O'Neal, the entire sum was guaranteed.

Trustees who contributed were: J. H. Whittemore, \$25,000; George A. Rollins, \$10,000; W. C. Comstock, \$10,000; Louis F. Dommerich, \$5,000; W. C. Temple, \$1,500, and Frederick W. Lyman, \$1,000. Mrs. Alonzo W. Rollins, widow of the founder, contributed \$20,000; Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Billings, New York, \$17,500; Charles H. Morse, Chicago, \$6,000; and the Ladies Auxiliary of Rollins College, \$2,000. Among others who gave were Henry Phipps, New York, and Dr. M. A. Henkel and Andrew Ahik, both of Winter Park.

In 1908, the Loring A. Chase bequest of \$10,000 was received to build Chase Hall, a dormitory for men, but furnishing it required raising a further \$4,797.03. This was contributed by Mr. Chase's friends in memory of the founder of Winter Park.

From President Blackman's first year in office a determined attempt had been made to obtain endowed scholarships. By 1908, eight of these had been established at \$1,000 each, given by or in memory of:

Loring A. Chase, Winter Park  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hall, Evanston, Ill.  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Mark, Fredonia, N. Y.  
Mr. and Mrs. John F. Scott, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mrs. Mathilda Burleigh, South Berwick, Me.  
A. E. Angier, Boston, Mass.  
John H. Wyeth, St. Louis, Mo.  
Francis Asbury Palmer, (by trustees of his estate)

In addition there was the Banquet Honor Scholarship raised by the Faculty at a banquet each year from 1903 through 1905 on the anniversary of Dr. Pearsons's gift. In 1911, friends in Duval County, Florida, added a scholarship of \$1,500, the income from which would provide annually free tuition for a graduate of Duval High School (Jacksonville).

The Eliza Worthington Fund in memory of Mrs. Blackman's mother produced an income for the Domestic Arts department. The Harmon Loan Fund, given by the New York philanthropist, W. E. Harmon, was established to help worthy students.

In June, 1905, Andrew Carnegie offered to give \$20,000 for a library building conditioned on a like amount being raised for its Endowment. Once more, the effort of meeting this obligation fell to President Blackman, but slightly over two years later the matching funds had been raised. Among the donors to the Carnegie Library Endowment Fund were Dr. Daniel K. Pearsons, \$3,000; three trustees, S. Mills Ely, \$1,000, Louis F. Dommerich, \$500, and Frederick W. Lyman, \$250; Mrs. Dwight Spencer, Manchester, Conn., \$1,000; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Saunders, South Bend, Ind., \$1,000; Trustees, Francis A. Palmer Estate, \$500; Kimball C. Atwood, New York, \$150; and Miss Grace Dodge, New York, \$100.

Upon the opening of the Carnegie Library in 1909, \$1,700 for books was donated by friends while others made many contributions from their own libraries. The Librarian, Frances Mason Ely, (sister of the noted economist, Richard T. Ely), processed the books according to the Dewey system of classification. As one of the oldest libraries in Florida, the Rollins Library was a depository for federal documents.

It is not surprising that when President Blackman reported to the Trustees on February 17, 1909 that Mr. Carnegie had again offered another building to the college — a science hall costing \$25,000 — on the same conditions, Dr. Blackman should comment:

"A second and larger gift from Mr. Carnegie, following after so short an interval the first, seems to indicate his satisfaction with the way in which we met his former offer, and his confidence in the future of



the college . . . but you can hardly blame me if after the unceasing struggle of the past five years to meet conditional offers of this sort, I fell a certain depression of spirits . . . .”

However, fifteen months later, President Blackman was able to report to Mr. Carnegie that the sum of \$25,490 had been contributed as endowment for the new science building. Trustees contributing were: James Laughlin, Jr., Pittsburgh (a close friend of Carnegie), \$5,000; estate of W. W. Cummer, \$3,000; W. C. Comstock, \$5,500; Louis F. Dommerich, \$1,000; F. W. Lyman, \$1,000; C. H. Morse, \$1,000; C. L. Smith, \$500; E. H. Brewer, \$500. Others who donated were: Mrs. Frederick Billings, \$1,000; E. A. Saunders, \$1,000; W. H. Nichols, New York, \$1,000; Mrs. Julia M. Turner, Philadelphia, \$1,000; H. A. Wilder, Boston, \$1,000; Zenas Crane, Dalton, Mass., \$250; A. E. Angier, \$100; Mrs. Henry Phipps, \$100; and the Lake Helen, Florida, Sunday School, \$5.

A further sum of \$10,000 was pledged by Mrs. Francis B. Knowles, widow of a founding trustee, for furnishing the new science building and providing new science equipment.

Altogether, the fun-raising accomplishments of the Blackman Administration approached \$400,000.

### THE BUILDING PROGRAM

Since the erection of Cloverleaf in 1891, no new structure had been added to the campus for eleven years. By the fall of 1902, space for classrooms, a library building, a science building and administration offices were urgently needed. Fortunately, the college already owned land on the western side of the original campus which was available for expansion.

Ironically enough, the first building added during the Blackman Administration was for recreation. The gift of Mrs. Esther R. Holmes, Monson, Massachusetts, was a boathouse erected at a cost of \$750 on the shore of Lake Virginia to house boats, canoes, and the newly acquired racing shells.

During the summer vacation in 1906, Professor Grace L. Lainhart, Director of the Fine Arts department, designed and personally did the major part of the construction on an Art Studio for which funds were provided by Mrs. W. W. Cummer, wife of the trustee. A small square building with a recessed stoop, it contained three spacious rooms and improved the facilities for art students.

Sparrell Cottage, a two-story frame building constructed in 1888 as a residence, was contributed in 1905 as part of the Endowment Fund by Miss E. A. Sparrell of Boston. Still in use today, it has been at times

the residences of the president, a dormitory for women, a fraternity house, the Conservatory of Music, and a classroom building.

In 1907, the Trustees adopted a campus plan “to insure unity and attractiveness” in the building program. This plan envisaged two more horseshoe-shaped drives to the west of the original Horseshoe Drive. Three “quadrangles” would thus be formed; the eastern one to be the Men’s Quadrangle, the center to contain the library, chapel, administration offices and dining hall, and the western loop to form the Women’s Quadrangle. However, other than in the placing of Chase Hall, and the relocating of Cloverleaf and the Dining Hall, the campus plan was not followed.

Chase Hall, completed in 1908, was the first of four brick buildings designed by the New York architects, Whitfield and King, to fit into the campus plan adopted by the Trustees. A large sand-lime, white brick building with a roof of heavy red tiles, it has a spacious terrace facing Lake Virginia and has been used consistently as a dormitory for thirty-five men. It set the pattern for the new buildings to be constructed in accordance with the campus plan, a radical departure from the style of the eighties and nineties. The new buildings are simple in design, massive rectangles with a trace of Spanish influence.

The Pump House, Whitfield and King’s second building, was constructed at the same time to house the core of the new campus high-pressure water system.

Carnegie Hall, the library building, was started in 1908 and completed the following year. Built of similar materials to Chase Hall, it contained the library, classrooms and administration offices.

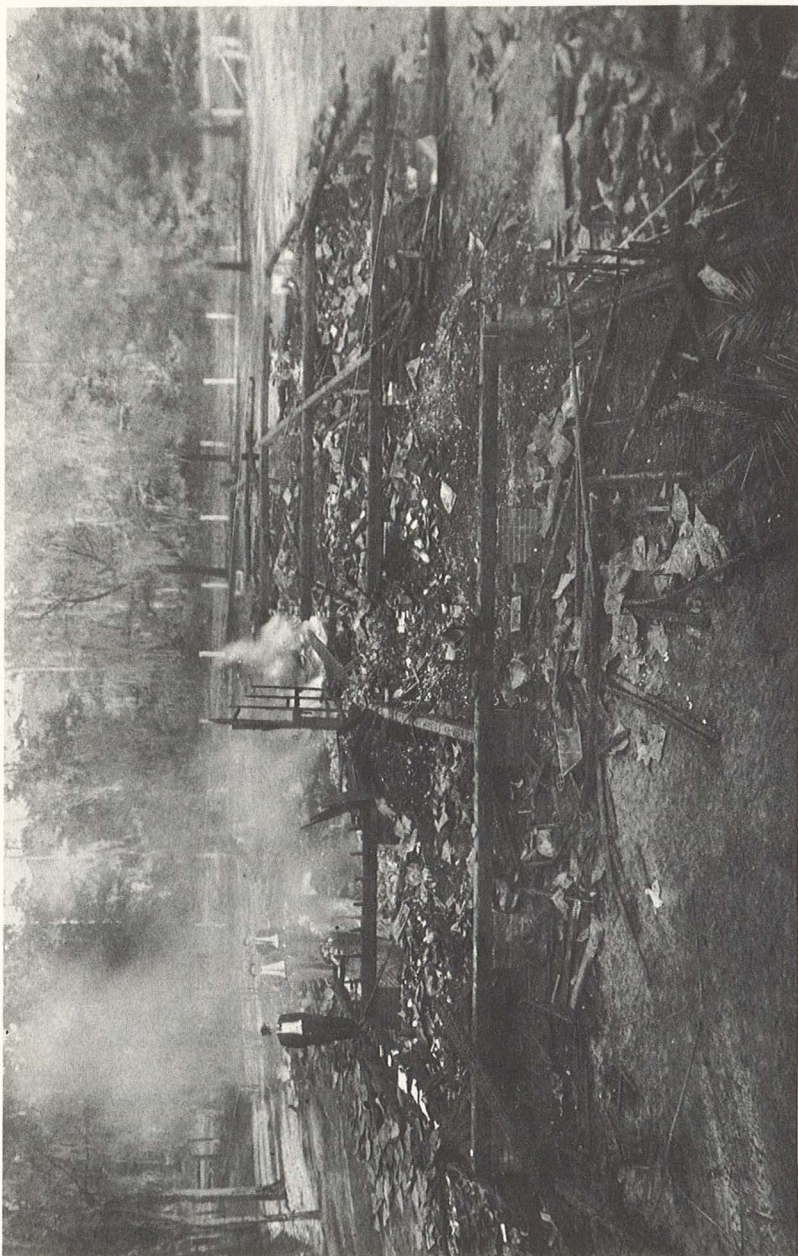
By February, 1909, President Blackman must have considered his campus space problems all but solved for, in spite of the loss of the Music Hall by fire in 1907, he had on his desk a further letter from Andrew Carnegie offering Rollins a new science building. But on the night of December 2, 1909, Knowles Hall the first building on the campus, went up in flames! The students of that day told the story themselves in the *Sandspur*:

“Between two and three o’clock in the morning, the students were aroused by cries of ‘FIRE!’ . . . . The building had become a red, fiery mass surrounded by still erect walls.

“At a glance the first few who reached the building saw the uselessness of any attempt to save it . . . . The heat was so terrific that it soon became evident that Pinehurst was on the verge of catching fire. One could hear the breaking of its windows and see the terrified students throwing their trunks out of the third story windows . . . .

“Knowles was left to its fate and the hoses were turned on the scorching sides of Pinehurst. Steam rose with a hiss . . . the burning sides of Knowles facing Pinehurst now gave way and fell outward in a heap, almost striking those who were managing the hose between the





Ruins of original Knowles Hall, first building on campus erected in 1886 which burned to the ground on Dec. 2, 1909. In it were the Chapel, classrooms and administrative offices.  
Knowles Hall No. 2, dedicated in 1911, housed the Chapel, classrooms and science laboratories.

two buildings . . . . It now became a constant, vigilant effort to keep the sides of the dormitory running with water . . . .

"It was with inexpressible thanks that we saw the abating flames of the doomed study hall . . . . In one respect fortune had aided us from the fact that there was absolutely no wind. In case only a slight breeze had been blowing from the north, Pinehurst and even Chase Hall would undoubtedly have been lost."

Only two typewriters were saved. Classrooms, chapel, scientific equipment, virtually all the files and records of the college from 1885 to 1909, all were gone! As Dr. Thomas R. Baker, Professor of Natural Sciences, wrote two weeks later:

"The geological collections were reduced to shapeless masses . . . . The tube of the big telescope was reduced to a shapeless mass with much of the zinc burned out of the alloy . . . most of the fine compound microscopes, one of which was made to order in Germany, were melted into useless pieces . . . . Nothing in the building disappeared so completely as the big bell . . . it called pupils to recitations, to meals, to study, to recreation — indeed it was a signal call to almost everything of importance that occurred on campus. The bell is greatly missed."

Plans for the new science hall, already in preparation by Whitfield and King, were hurriedly expanded, and construction of a \$35,000 building, similar in style and materials to Chase and Carnegie Halls, was begun in the spring of 1910. It continued the use of the name "Knowles Hall" in memory of Francis Bangs Knowles, one of the chief founders of Rollins.

So having begun his administration with eight wooden buildings, President Blackman lost two by fire (Music Hall, 1907, and Knowles Hall, 1909), and added seven (four of brick construction), a building program which doubled the size and value of the campus in thirteen years.

### THE PROBLEM OF FINANCES

Since the founding of the college, Rollins had been operated at a deficit each year. Receipts were never enough to balance expenses, and only a continual flow of donations from trustees and other friends enabled each successive president to cover the deficit at the end of the fiscal year. President Blackman, too, had this problem to face in a period when the national depression of 1907 added to his worries.

Because the Pearsons's and the two Carnegie gifts were conditional offers, all contributions received had to be regarded as matching funds, and invested in Endowment. This meant they could not be used for operating expenses, and the college was forced to borrow for this purpose.

Since its founding in 1885, Rollins had received generous support annually from the education division of the Congregational Church.



This was in accordance with the Congregational policy to do all it could to encourage the founding of liberal arts colleges of high academic standards, and once they were founded, to encourage them to become independent of denominational support. By 1904-1905, the Congregational contribution had dropped to just over \$500, while in 1905-1906 it had descended to a low of \$225.

Representations made to the education division of the Congregational Church in that year brought forth the proposal that the Congregational Church would lend the college the sum of \$10,000 on condition Rollins would guarantee to extinguish the indebtedness standing as of September 30, 1904 at \$30,000. This proposition specifically stated that the loan would "... never be payable until the property should cease to be used as a college." This generous proposal was accepted by the Trustees.

At the annual meeting of the Board, February 20, 1906, President Blackman was able to point to a gratifying item in the annual statement of Treasurer William R. O'Neal: "Notes paid, \$28,900." Nevertheless, the President was forced to add that the college should have been able to end the year without a deficit "... except for the fact that various contributions which otherwise would have gone to meet the current expenses of the year were diverted to the payment of the debt, in order to meet the conditions imposed upon us by the Congregational Education Society."

Twice more, President Blackman had to match such conditional offers; the Carnegie Library in 1907, the science hall in 1910. The problem remained unsolved throughout his administration. On the other hand, definite progress had been made by the establishment of a permanent income-producing Endowment Fund without which no privately supported college could long exist.

### THE CARNEGIE RETIREMENT GRANTS

When the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching published its *Rules for the Granting of Retiring Allowances* (1906), President Blackman set out to secure such retirement grants for three illustrious members of the faculty:

<p>Frances E. Lord, Professor of Latin, 1897—</p>	<p>Studied in Italy and at Oxford; taught at Vassar, 1869-1876; Professor of Latin and Greek, Wellesley, 1876-1897; acting-president, 1890-1891, and 1894; author, the Ginn &amp; Co., 1894, <i>Rivi Tiburtini</i>, 1896, <i>Jesus Said</i>, missionary publication translated into Turkish and Chinese.</p>
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Susan A. Longwell,  
Professor of History and  
English, 1897—

Dr. Thomas R. Baker,  
Professor of Natural  
Sciences, 1892—

Educated PennYan Academy, graduate, Genessee Wesleyan Seminary, studied English and Old Saxon Literature at Oxford; Lady Principal at PennYan Academy, Corning Academy, Willow Park Seminary, and Maplewood Institute; Instructor of English and Saxon Literature, Smith College, 1884-1887; principal, Springfield Seminary, Ohio, 1888-1897; translator, portions of Hegel's *Aesthetics for Journal of Speculative Philosophy*, (1871-1873).

M. S., First Pennsylvania State Normal, special courses, Analytical Chemistry and Geology, Pennsylvania State College, Ph.D., University of Goettingen, Germany; Professor of Applied Mathematics and Mechanics, Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, 1861-1867; Professor of Physics and Chemistry, First Pennsylvania State Normal, 1867-1869, Professor of Natural Science, 1871-1886; besides natural science also taught German and Mathematics at Rollins at different times. Author, *Researches in Electricity* (dissertation, 1871), *Elements of Physics* (1881), *A Short Course in Chemistry, Based On The Experimental Method* (1883), *Practical Questions in Philosophy and Chemistry* (1884), many papers read before American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Linnean Society.

President Blackman sought recognition from the Carnegie Foundation not only to retire these three eminent professors but to establish through the nation the academic standards of Rollins College. Since 1885, Rollins had striven to establish in the Lower Southeast (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) standards in effect in other regions. This was acutely needed in Florida.

The reminiscences of an alumna, Patty Howes Christiancy, x07, picture the Florida situation clearly:

"... think of her half dozen or less high schools, and poorly equipped grade schools. At fourteen I could have gotten a teacher's certificate, and was urged to do so by my well-meaning teacher..."

It was not until 1903 that the trend toward statewide standardization of Florida public schools began, and only the passage of the Buck-

man Bill by the Legislature in 1905 "... served to make clearer the line of demarcation between secondary and college work." The quality of a college, therefore, was evaluated principally by the quality of its faculty, and by the ability of its graduates to transfer to, or enter for post-graduate work, the older and larger universities.

President George Morgan Ward, 1896-1902, reported:

"... I was more than proud to be at the head of an institution whose faculty ... contained an unusual number of men (and women) who would not ordinarily have been available for so small an institution ... During my administration, while we had technically no academic rating ... our students were accepted at Amherst and Harvard and Western Reserve on their merits and none of them ever failed to retain his standing."

President Blackman's report on academic standing in 1915 was in similar terms:

"... I would add that during my presidency, a considerable number of Rollins students were received *ad eundem* by several leading universities and colleges, among them Yale, Cornell and Wellesley; no institution ever declined to accept our students to advanced standing, and in every case these students made good."

Negotiations were opened by President Blackman in May, 1906, to have Rollins College placed on the "approved list" of the Carnegie Foundation. Sure as he was of the quality of his faculty, President Blackman had to admit that his professors had to do a certain amount of teaching in the academy classes as well as the college. To which admission, in a letter dated March 6, 1907 President Henry S. Pritchett, Carnegie Foundation, replied:

"... I think our only question about the admission of an institution like Rollins is that, notwithstanding its high standard of admission, it is for the present mainly a preparatory school with a good but very small college department at the top. Up to this time it has seemed to us wise to deal very generously with the professors in such institutions individually, but not to admit the institutions themselves to our list."

President Blackman would not be satisfied with such partial recognition. He was determined to obtain the stamp of approval bestowed by a full listing. After various personal interviews with President Pritchett, he brought the issue to a head by formally applying for a retirement grant for Professor Frances E. Lord, pointing out:

"... that the assignment of a pension to Miss Lord for the next year will open the way to the employment as professor of Latin at Rollins College of a young man of singular promise, a Princeton Master of Arts, now completing his third year as Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, whose valuable services will probably be lost to us otherwise."

President Pritchett's reply, dated April 2, 1908 indicated that if the Foundation was right in assuming that a majority of the trustees of

Rollins must be Congregationalists, "we are estopped by our charter from granting this retirement allowance."

Here was an impasse for Rollins did have a contractual arrangement with the Congregational Education Society for maintaining a majority of Congregationalists on its Board of Trustees. President Blackman wrote almost despairingly to President Pritchett regarding the issue of Congregational control:

"... Rollins is in a rather unfortunate predicament; I always advertise her with much emphasis as an undenominational college — and thus offend the sectarians — on the other hand the Carnegie Foundation treats her as a denominational institution and cuts her off from help."

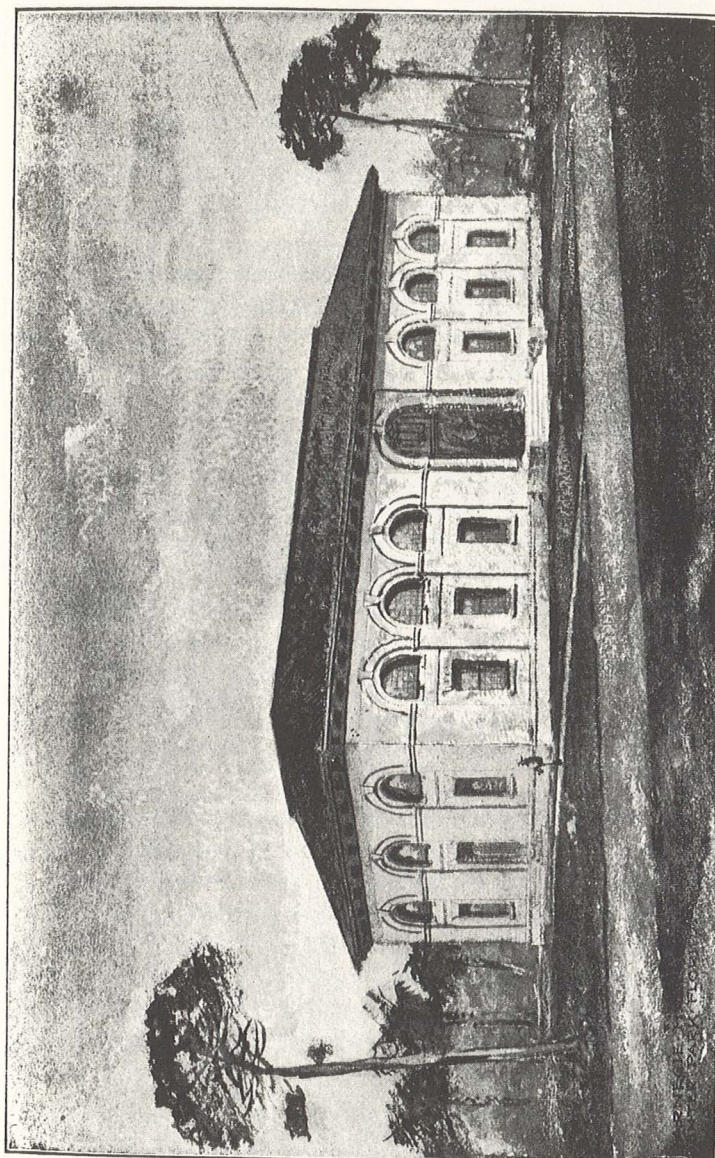
A moral obligation to three professors now reaching their seventies, a brilliant potential teacher in the Rhodes Scholar, accreditation for Rollins at the national level; set these against the fact that the Congregational contribution had become negligible, and the issue was clear. By June 13, 1908 President Blackman was able to inform President Pritchett that the Congregational Education Society "... had voted to accede to the request of Rollins College to be released from the condition that a majority of the trustees be Congregationalists." Thus Rollins College was released from her last denominational tie and accepted as an "approved institution" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. As President Blackman pointed out in a news release:

"This action of the Carnegie Foundation is highly complimentary to Rollins College ... The only Southern institutions on the ... list of the Foundation are Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, the Randolph-Macon Woman's College of Virginia, and Tulane University of New Orleans."

In 1913 and 1914, President Blackman had another struggle for recognition at the State level. An enactment of the Legislature purposed to grant state teachers certificates to graduates of the state institutions of higher learning. In an extended correspondence with the Hon. W. N. Sheats, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, President Blackman fought for the extension of this privilege to graduates of private institutions. The principle involved was granted by Superintendent Sheats, and in August, 1914, he pledged himself "to secure State Certificates for certain of your graduates by the State Board of Education ... " Two years later the correspondence applying for such certificates had become sufficiently routine to deduce that what had begun as a privilege had become, in fact, a right.

These prolonged, delicate negotiations on both the state and national levels were representative of the heroic fight to raise academic standards which was characteristic of President Blackman's leadership.





Architect's drawing of Carnegie Library Building which was dedicated in 1909. Since 1951, when the Library was moved to the Mills Memorial building, Carnegie Hall has been used for classrooms.

## THE QUARTER-CENTENNIAL OF ROLLINS

"The approaching Commencement will complete a quarter-century of life for the institution . . . . It seems to me appropriate and desirable that the completion of one quarter-century of life and the beginning of another should be marked . . . by a modest celebration, in which the history of the past should be sketched . . . ." reported President Blackman to the Board of Trustees on March 30, 1910.

The Quarter-Century Commencement was held in the Lyman Gymnasium on the morning of June 2, 1910. The address was given by Dr. Raymond M. Alden, Professor of English at Leland Stanford University. A distinguished alumnus who had received his preparatory education at Rollins Academy (1886-1890), Dr. Alden had taken his freshman year at Rollins (1890-1891), received his A.B. from the University of Pennsylvania, A.M. from Harvard, and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Author of many critical essays and scholarly volumes, he is best known for his children's classic *Why the Chimes Rang*. With his knowledge of the early days of Rollins, he was well qualified to speak on its twenty-fifth anniversary. At the close of the exercises, President Blackman declared the college year ended, and with it the first quarter-century of Rollins College.

It was, however, at the dedication of the new Knowles Hall the following March 9, 1911, that a long look backwards over the past twenty-five years was taken. The Rev. Mason Noble, D.D., a trustee, graduate of Williams College and Union Theological Seminary, author of *Congregationalism Among the Denominations*, reminded his listeners that it was twenty-five years to the day since the early friends of the institution had gathered to dedicate the first Knowles Hall on March 9, 1886. He reviewed the birth of the college at the inspiration of Miss Lucy Cross, and the determined action of the General Congregational Association of Florida.

"That was a bold act of faith," Dr. Noble declared, "when those representatives of fourteen missionary churches took this step. They proceeded to the choice of eighteen trustees, at least eight of these outside their own body, and several outside their own denomination. To this new organization they committed the college that was to be, with their sympathy and blessing — and then immediately took their hands OFF and placed them UNDER. From that day, they have never interfered with the College."

This note, so emphasized in the Rollins charter, that the college should be distinctively Christian, yet wholly undenominational, underlay the other addresses of the day. A long letter from Frederick W. Lyman, founding trustee, recalling in detail the founding days was read; the Hon. Henry S. Chubb, a trustee for many years, brought to the mind



of his listeners the vital part played by Francis B. Knowles, one of the chief founders, in upholding the finances of the college as it took its first staggering steps, and tribute was paid to the inspiring work of former President George Morgan Ward in keeping the college together in a time of economic disaster in the state.

Finally, James Laughlin, Jr., of Pittsburgh, a trustee and a friend and associate of Andrew Carnegie, spoke glowingly of the future of the college and pledged himself anew to its support.

He was as good as his word. He and Charles H. Morse each gave \$2,500 to the "Quarter-Century Fund" which ultimately reached a total of \$10,815 to commemorate the first twenty-five years of Rollins College.

True to the policies of the founding fathers, Rollins had remained throughout the first quarter-century, 1885-1910, worthy of the Congregational Church, her spiritual founder. Rollins had attained distinction as a small college of liberal arts and sciences, co-educational, and comparable in standards to those in other sections of the United States.

By remaining independent of church and state control, Rollins had failed to gain many students, much financial support, as well as popular acclaim. Instead Rollins safeguarded her integrity and extended and strengthened in the Lower Southeast the ideals and standards of American higher education. Her trustees, professors, and students, in contrast to other colleges in the South, represented the nation, not a section. And her alumni of the first twenty-five years were likewise making their contributions to the American scene in all parts of the nation as well as in foreign lands.

#### CHRONOLOGY OF THE BLACKMAN ADMINISTRATION, 1902-1915

- 1902 October 1, Dr. William F. Blackman assumed duties as President-Elect and Professor of Sociology, Politics and Economics. Domestic and Industrial Arts department inaugurated and taught by Mrs. Lucy W. Blackman, supported by Ladies Auxiliary of Rollins College.  
Julia Brown Reed, author-elocutionist, formerly Director of School of Acting and Elocution, George Peabody College for Teachers, joined the faculty.  
Florida State Teachers Association visited the campus at Christmastime. Student Help Fair organized in Orlando by Fred P. Ensminger, A.B., Rollins, B.D., Andover Theological Seminary, Professor of Mathematics, in connection with the F.S.T.A. convention. The Fair was a success, and was held again in 1903 and 1905.
- 1903 February 18, J. H. Whittemore, Naugatuck, Conn., former parishioner of President Blackman who had proposed him for

President was elected to Board of Trustees. Also Lucius J. Knowles, Worcester, Mass., son of founder Francis B. Knowles. April 6, Inauguration of President Blackman. Dr. Daniel K. Pearsons announced gift of \$50,000 contingent on \$150,000 being raised for Endowment within the year. Ex-President George Morgan Ward awarded LL.D., the first honorary degree given by Rollins.

Spring, Rollins won baseball intercollegiate championship; Rube Waddell and F. O. Schreckengost, professional baseball players who were "attending" Rollins were on the team.

October 1, 167 students enrolled. Seven gold medals, given by James Ronan, Trenton, N. J., Professor William J. Kirkpatrick, Philadelphia, noted Methodist hymn author, and Sidney Morse Colgate, Octagon Soap Co., North Orange, N. J., were instituted "for excellence."

- 1904 February 27, Young Men's Co-Operative Union organized, the beginning of student government at Rollins.  
Young Women's Christian Association, organized by Vice President Morse, joined the Y.M.C.A. on campus as a student organization.  
April 14, matching funds for Pearsons's gift raised; Rollins College Endowment Fund established.  
April 25, Wellington W. Cummer, Jacksonville industrialist, elected to the Board of Trustees.  
April 26, new Boat House dedicated at celebrations marking completion of Endowment Fund campaign. Gift of Mrs. Esther R. Holmes, Monson, Mass., it housed boats recently acquired by Professor Ensminger, including two eight-oared racing shells made of compressed paper.  
October 5, 171 students enrolled. Two new sports introduced, rowing and football. New faculty were: Ralph Chapman Benedict, A.B., Director of the Business department, and Eva Wilkins, graduate of Fredonia State Normal School and teacher in the Intermediate Department there, as Instructor, Courses for Teachers.  
November, athletic teams (rowing, field and track) attended South Florida Fair at Tampa; newspapers sponsored two Rollins crews, the *Times* vs. the *Tribune*, in an eight-oared shell race on the Hillsborough River.
- 1905 January, new hymn books for Chapel donated by the Trustees of Phillips Andover, and the Andover Theological Seminary: *The Pilgrim Hymnal*.  
February 15, Dr. Frederick W. Inman, Winter Haven, elected a Trustee.



Among other investments, Rollins Endowment Fund purchased the Rogers House (the first hotel built in Winter Park) as an income producing investment. It was enlarged, renamed the "Seminole Inn", and is now the Virginia Inn. Rollins sold it in 1912. April 5, Professor Charles A. McMurry, Ph.D., University of Halle, Germany, pedagogical author and lecturer, added as Visiting Professor in Education to teach Review Courses for Teachers, held annually in April and May to prepare them for state certificate examinations.

April 12, Rev. Frank S. Child, Fairfield, Conn., minister and author of *An Old New England Town* and other historical works, elected to the Board of Trustees.

June 22, Andrew Carnegie offered \$20,000 for Library, conditional on raising another \$20,000 for its endowment.

October 4, 180 students enrolled. Due to abolishment of state military institutes at Gainesville and Bartow by the Buckman Bill, Rollins had more men than women students—"a very Unusual situation," commented President Blackman.

Professor Florence A. Crocker, A.B., formerly instructor in Philosophy and Psychology at Greenwich Academy, R. I., was appointed Dean of Women, inaugurating this position. Also added to the Faculty were George F. Oliphant, A.M., as Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Mathematics, and Jasper H. Brinson, formerly principal of the commercial department of the East Florida Seminary, as Director of the Business department.

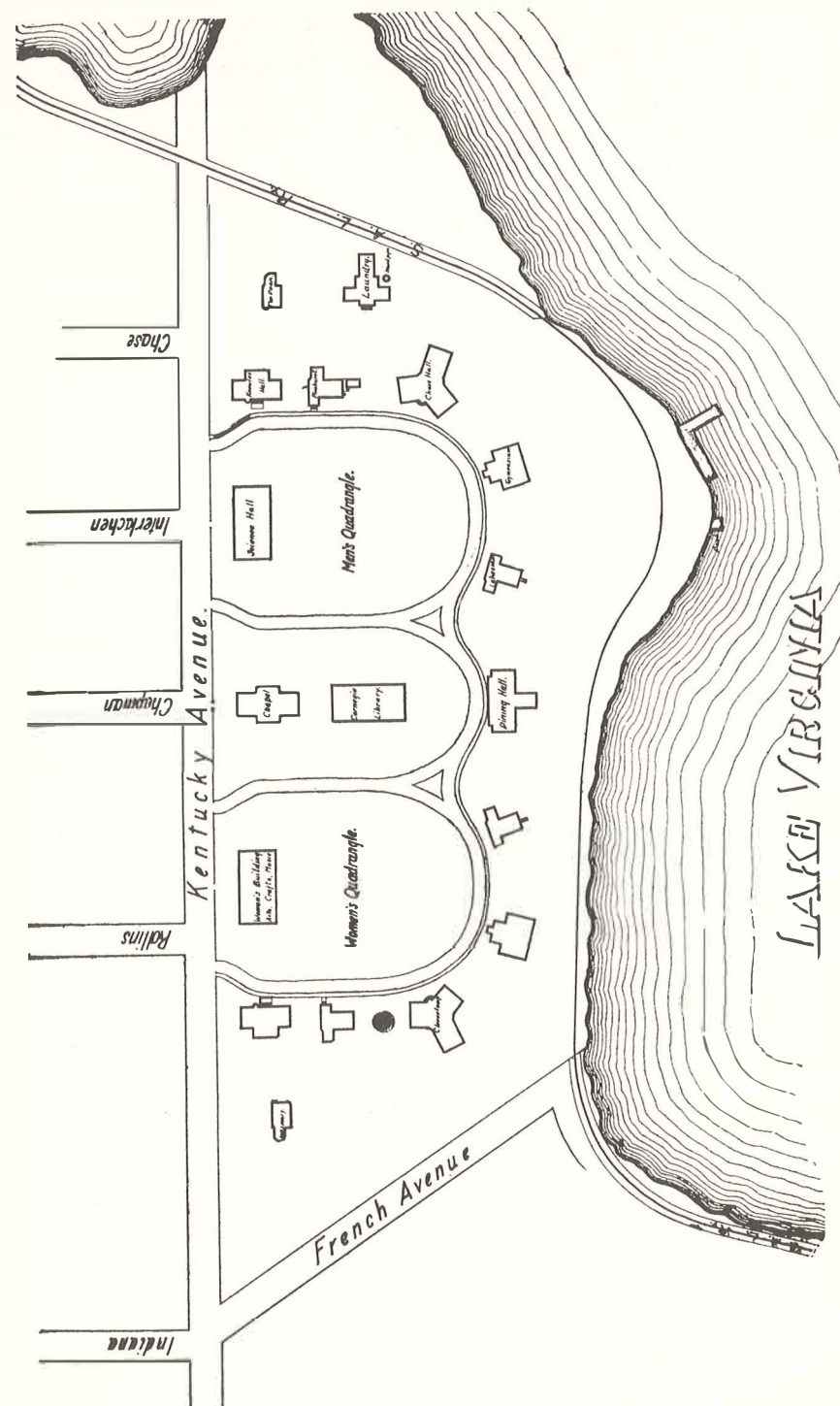
1906 March 17, Dr. William E. Boggs, Jacksonville, a Presbyterian minister and former Chancellor of the University of Georgia (1889-1899), and Rev. Byron F. Marsh, Daytona, were elected Trustees.

Art Studio built containing three spacious rooms. Gift of Mrs. W. W. Cummer, Jacksonville, and other friends.

1907 February 20, campus plan adopted by the Trustees, who voted "no frame building other than a temporary character to be erected hereafter on the campus." Frederick W. Lyman, founder and charter trustee, re-elected to the board.

July 25, Music Hall struck by lightning, burned with all equipment of the Departments of Music, and Domestic Arts. Insurance covered the building (\$1,600) and the Rollins College Ladies Auxiliary began an immediate campaign to replace lost equipment.

Rhodes Scholarship awarded to Berkeley Blackman, '07; the first to a Rollins graduate, the second to that date given in Florida. October 31, matching funds campaign for Carnegie Library completed.



The Campus Plan, 1907, which was never put into effect. Later, a smaller horseshoe was extended to the west of the main horseshoe.

1908 February 25, Trustees adopted new College Seal designed by Professor Grace L. Lainhart, director of the Fine Arts department; approved modification of the campus plan to expand westward, and adopted the policy of setting out on the campus one or more specimens of every tree or shrub, native or imported, which could be acclimated. Trustees elected to the Board were: S. Mills Ely, Binghamton, N. Y., businessman and philanthropist, and the Rev. Frank L. Jenkins, Atlanta, Ga., minister (founder, Central Congregational Church, Atlanta,) educator (founder, Atlanta Theological Seminary; president, Piedmont, Southern Union, and Bowden Colleges) and author of *Anglo-Saxon Congregationalism in the South* (1908).

April 27, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, voted to sever official connection with Congregational Education Society by abolishing rule that majority of trustees be Congregationalists. This cleared the way for approval of Rollins College by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching for grants for retiring professors. Professor Frances E. Lord, retired on the first grant to Rollins at the end of this academic year.

Spring term, baseball and basketball teams won state intercollegiate championships.

Carrie Nation spoke in Lyman Gymnasium—"a characteristic address."

Portraits of Founders, Trustees and early Faculty presented to college by their families and friends.

Early summer, campus enlarged westward. Cloverleaf, Dining Hall and Art Studio moved. Erection of Chase and Carnegie Halls begun; architects, Whitfield and King, New York. Pump House built; water system of campus, gift of W. C. Comstock, greatly enlarged. Charles H. Morse gave three acres of land between campus and Lake Virginia on the east; it was planted as an arboretum.

Among the new faculty this Fall were: Professor Elizabeth P. Donnan, A.B., Cornell (Phi Beta Kappa), White Fellow of Political Science at Cornell; later became a leading historian while professor at Wellesley, as Dean of Women and Professor of Economics and Sociology; Erik S. Palmer, Ph.B., Yale (Sigma Xi), as Professor of Mathematics; and two Rhodes Scholars, William H. Branham, A.B., Georgetown College, B.A., Oxford University, as Professor of Modern Languages, and Leigh Alexander, A.B., Princeton, B.A., Oxford University, as Professor of Latin and Instructor in Greek.

Rollins Athletic Association organized. Also the Rollins Choral Society.

Rollins football team held championship of Florida and Cuba.

1909 January 19, Andrew Carnegie offered \$25,000 for a science building conditional on a like sum being raised for its endowment.

February 18, Carnegie and Chase Halls dedicated. The latter was a dormitory for men, a bequest from Loring A. Chase, founder of Winter Park. Addresses at the double dedication were given by Dr. Andrew W. Sledd, President of the University of Florida, Dr. A. A. Murphree, President of Florida State College for Women, and Professor F. A. Hathaway, President of the Florida Educational Association. Col. G. B. Dyer, Augusta, Georgia, and Hon. Joseph Carter, Illinois, both long time friends of Mr. Chase, paid tribute to his memory.

Rollins took the State Intercollegiate Championships in baseball and basketball.

Professor Susan A. Longwell, retired on a Carnegie grant.

October 6, board, room and tuition charges increased to \$210 per year. Appointed to the Faculty were: Rev. Francis T. Clayton, A.B., A.M., New York University, B.D., Union Theological Seminary, formerly college pastor at Williams College, as Dean and Professor of English and Philosophy; Mabel Andrews Clayton, A.B., Vassar, as Professor of Mathematics and Instructor in French; Edmund M. Hyde, B.A., M.A., Trinity College, Ph.D., Yale, L.H.D., Ursinus College, formerly Professor of Latin and Dean at Ursinus College, as Professor of Ancient Languages; Oliver G. H. Schadt, A.B., M.A., Ph.D., Muhlenberg College, formerly instructor in languages at Germantown Academy, first American tutor to the Russian Imperial family, Petrograd, and U.S. Commissioner-General at the Petrograd World's Fair, as Professor of Romance Languages; Berkeley Blackman, A.B., Rollins, B.A., Oxford University, as Instructor in Physics and Chemistry; Homer S. Pope, later Director of the Rollins Conservatory of Music, as Instructor in Harmony, Theory and Musical History; Frances M. Ely, as Librarian of the new Carnegie Library.

December 2, Knowles Hall (built in 1886) burned, a total loss.

1910 March, Hamilton Holt, editor of *The Independent* (and future president of Rollins) addressed the students in Lyman Gymnasium on "Federation of the World."

March 30, President Blackman reported to the Board that financing the operation of the college was becoming more critical, due to all recent contributions having to be considered as matching funds for the Endowment of the Science Hall. Also cost of living still rising, commodities prices for student board were now 61% higher than in 1896. Reported the death of Trustees S. Mills Ely, Rev. Sullivan F. Gale, and Wellington W. Cummer, and commented "That this Board could in a single year be bereaved by the



death of three such men . . . is a testimony to the character of its membership." New trustees elected were: Rv. J. C. Tims, Tampa; Rev. George L. Hanscom, Jacksonville; Charles H. Morse, of Fairbanks, Morse & Co., Chicago and the Winter Park Land Co., and James Laughlin, Jr., of Jones & Laughlin Steel Co., Pittsburgh.

April 16, Orlando Day Program, to interpret work of the college to its neighbouring community.

June 2, twenty-fifth anniversary of the college celebrated at Commencement.

- 1911 March 9, dedication of science hall — Knowles Hall No. 2 — on twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the first Knowles Hall. Rev. Mason Noble, trustee, gave the address, James Laughlin, Jr., read a telegram from Andrew Carnegie and paid tribute to him from personal friendship, music was played on the new Aeolian organ, and the College Chorus rendered a classical program.

June, Dr. Thomas R. Baker retired on a Carnegie grant. Berkeley Blackman was appointed Professor of Natural Science in his place; introduced certain features of Oxford University teaching methods into his classes that fall.

October 4, new members of the Faculty were: Mrs. Esther B. P. Ferguson, A.B., Hiram College, as Dean of Women and Professor of History; Hiram Powers, LL.B., University of Michigan, son of Longworth Powers, artist, and grandson of Hiram Powers, sculptor, as Professor of Modern Languages; and Ida Barney, A.B., Smith, Ph.D., Yale, (Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi) who later became a distinguished astronomer at Yale, as Professor of Mathematics.

Extension courses in vocal music, piano, and various branches of commercial education offered — the Orlando Extension Program. Classrooms were located at the corner of Pine and Court Streets, and college credit was given for successfully completed work.

No football this year — the college was unable to obtain the services of a good coach.

- 1912 January, Rollins *Alma Mater*, composed by Homer S. Pope, Director of the Conservatory of Music, with words by Rose Mills Powers, poet and wife of Professor Hiram Powers, first sung by the Men's Glee Club.

February, Conservatory was growing in importance; enrollment more than double the previous year.

*The Sandspur*, student publication first published as a quarterly, 1894-1906 then as an annual 1907-1910, and suspended during the past two years, resumed publication as a monthly magazine.

April, President Blackman began a five year campaign, approved by the Trustees, to enlist co-operation of Alumni in recruiting students for Rollins.

October 2, Arthur D. Enyart, A.B., A.M., Ohio Wesleyan, S.T.B., Boston University, joined Faculty as Dean, and Professor of English and Philosophy.

Dr. Thomas R. Baker, Professor Emeritus, presented to the Baker Museum (of which he was Director) a small but valuable collection from the Geological Museum of Cairo, Egypt, obtained during his visit there during the summer, with Rollins alumnus Henry Banks.

- 1913 February 19, first women elected to the Board of Trustees: Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer and Mrs. Evaline Lamson Smith, former Librarian. This election culminated a five year campaign of President Blackman's to draw loyal women friends of the college into closer participation in management of its affairs. Also elected were: Rev. W. B. Y. Wilkie, Dunedin, and Hon. John M. Cheney, prominent Orlando criminal lawyer, former U.S. District Attorney, and U.S. District Judge.

August, in an endeavour to strengthen Florida public schools and encourage students to obtain a college education, the Trustees announced an offer of free tuition to all graduates of Florida High Schools who maintained satisfactory work in Rollins four year college course.

Fifth consecutive intercollegiate baseball championship won by Rollins. R. W. Greene was appointed Director of Physical Education.

- 1914 February 18, Hamilton Holt, editor of *The Independent*, Alexander L. Dommerich, New York and Maitland, and Dr. Charles R. Switzer, Chicago and Winter Park, elected to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Nathaniel M. Pratt, clergyman and social service executive, appointed Vice President and Professor of Philosophy and Bible Study.

May 5, Faculty voted to adopt wearing of academic costume on all suitable occasions.

September 30, enrollment at opening of the last academic year of the Blackman Administration was 176, representing 22 states, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and France. Room, board and tuition increased to \$244 per year. Susan H. Dyer, Mus. B., Yale (Steinert Prize for orchestral composition), joined the Faculty as Instructor in Violin, Harmony, Theory and Musical History, to become Director of the Conservatory of Music in 1916.

- 1915 February 17, President William F. Blackman resigned as of September 30.

# WILLIAM FREMONT BLACKMAN

- 1855 September 26, born at North Pitcher, New York, to John Smith and Orpah (Freeman) Blackman. Prepared for college at Auburn (N.Y.) High School, and 1871-1873, in preparatory department, Oberlin College.
- 1877 A.B., Oberlin College.
- 1877-78 Conservatory of Music, Oberlin; 1878-79, School of Theology, Oberlin.
- 1880 B.D., Yale Divinity School, Yale University. July, married Effleda Veronica Thomson, classmate at Oberlin, of Medina. Pastor, Congregational Church, Steubenville, Ohio.
- 1882 Mrs. Blackman died. Spent summer in Great Britain.
- 1884 July 1, married Lucy Worthington, of Steubenville, Ohio, in Washington, D. C. Children: Berkeley, Worthington and Marjorie (Mrs. Glancy O. Wallace), all born at Naugatuck. Pastor, Congregational Church, Naugatuck, Conn. His parents bought orange grove at Altoona, Florida; two years later brother E. V. Blackman moved to Miami. Visited family in Florida annually, and himself planted grove property in Lake County.
- 1891 Pastor, Congregational Church, Ithaca, N. Y. Graduate studies at Cornell University.
- 1893 Ph.D. (*Magna cum laude*), Cornell University. Dissertation: *The making of Hawaii — A study in Social Evolution*, (Macmillan Co., 1899)
- 1893-94 Studied at Royal Statistical Bureau, University of Berlin, Germany, and attended lectures at College de France, Paris. Mrs. Blackman and Berkeley accompanied him; travelled extensively in Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland, France, Belgium and Holland.
- 1894 Professor of Christian Ethics, Yale Divinity School, Yale University. An editor of the *Yale Review*. Held both positions until 1901.
- 1901 Lecturer on Sociology and Ethics, Graduate School, Yale University. Member, Lake Mohonk Conference on International Peace, where he met and became close personal friend of Hamilton Holt, editor of *The Independent*.
- 1902 October 1, President-elect of Rollins College, Professor of Sociology, Politics and Economics.
- 1903 April 2, inaugurated President, Rollins College.
- 1905 February 3, elected Mayor of Winter Park for one year term.
- 1906 Alderman, Winter Park.

- 1909 March, with a group of prominent citizens organized Winter Park Board of Trade. Elected secretary-treasurer, chairman of Committee on Housing, and member of the Parks Committee. October and November, took part in "Educational Campaign" by prominent educators of the State to encourage better public schools.
- 1910 Member, Florida State Commission to revise and codify public school laws. Trustee, Atlanta Theological Seminary. June, LL.D., University of Florida.
- 1911 Founder and first president, Bank of Winter Park; held presidency until January 21, 1918.
- 1912 President, Florida Audubon Society, until 1921. President, Florida Conference of Charities and Correction.
- 1913 Member, Commission on Family Life, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America. Director, American Economic Association. President, 23rd annual session, South Florida Association of Congregational Churches.
- 1914 April 24, elected to Phi Kappa Alpha Honor Fraternity, Gainesville, Florida.
- 1915 February, resigned as President of Rollins College, effective September 30. Retired to Wekiwa Ranch, St. Johns River, where he bred cattle and hogs, raised fruit and vegetables. President, Florida Livestock Association.
- 1917 Appointed by Governor Sidney J. Catts to State Livestock Sanitary Board, until 1921.
- 1918 April 19, Chairman, Tick Eradication Committee (of State Livestock Sanitary Board). Made two speaking tours to educate the public in cattle-tick eradication program.
- 1923 Sold Wekiwa Ranch, moved to Orlando, later to Winter Park. President, Orlando Library Board.
- 1927 February 20, Board of Trustees named him President Emeritus of Rollins. Published *History of Orange County*.
- 1929 President, Florida Audubon Society, for one year term. Thereafter Honorary President until his death.
- 1932 August 9, died after a long illness, in Winter Park; buried in Winter Park cemetery. October 16, Memorial Service in Knowles Memorial Chapel, Rollins College. Trustees established William Fremont Blackman Medal to honor one "who ever maintained that it should be the ideals of quality, high standards and fineness of result which should distinguish Rollins among its peers."



## SOURCES

Records of: Graduate School, Cornell University  
Oberlin College  
Yale Divinity School  
Yale University

and the following records of Rollins College:

Official correspondence, personal scrapbook,  
and diary of President Blackman,  
Minutes of the Board of Trustees,  
Faculty Minutes,  
Annual Reports of the Presidents,  
Annual statements and other records of the Treasurer,  
Catalogs and Bulletins,  
The *Sandspur*, student newspaper,  
The *Alumni Record*.

Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America,  
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching,  
Congregational Education Society of Boston,  
General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Berkeley Blackman, '07  
Marjorie Blackman Wallace, x12.  
Mary L. Branham, '11  
Dr. Fred P. Ensminger, '97

Jacksonville *Florida Times-Union*, Tampa *Tribune*, Orlando *Sentinel*,  
Orlando *Daily Reporter*, Winter Park *Citizen*, and other Florida and  
out-of-state papers.

*History of Orange County*, by W. F. Blackman, (1927).  
*Florida Naturalist*, magazine of the Florida Audubon Society  
*History of Winter Park*, by Claire MacDowell, (1950).  
*Yale Review*, 1894-1901  
*Congregational Year Book*  
*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*  
*Dictionary of American Biography*



## The Floridian's Creed and Covenant

by William Fremont Blackman

*I Believe In Florida*, land of the open and fathomless sky, of lambent stars,  
of mountainous opalescent clouds, of soft benignant airs, of incessant summer, of  
unstinted and vivifying sunshine, of responsive and fecund soil.

*I Believe In Florida*, laved on every hand — cooled and warmed and  
cleansed and fed and decorated — by the azure and teeming waters of tropic seas,  
and by countless and sparkling lakes and streams.

*I Believe In Florida*, land of wide-stretching and open woods, of limitless  
green prairies and glades, of dense and vine-hung hammocks, of mysterious bays  
and swamps, all in their various forms lovely and fruitful; the land of fragrant pine  
and mourning cypress, of moss-draped oak, of waxen magnolia, of comely palm, of  
regal poinciana, of flaming vine, and of shy and brilliant orchid.

*I Believe In Florida*, land of the orange and pomelo and spicy kumquat, of  
peach and pear and persimmon and loquat, of pine-apple and guava and mango  
and avocado; of corn and cotton and cane and cattle, and of whatever else is any-  
where borne of trees or grown by the soil of the earth.

*I Believe In Florida*, the home of creatures strange, curious and beautiful  
—the saurian monster, the gliding reptile, the darting dainty lizard, the aquatic  
mantee, the egret in snowy nuptial array, the roseate spoonbill, the exuberant  
mocking-bird, the flame-like, flute-like cardinal, the wood-pecker with ivory bill  
and the humming-bird with ruby throat, the painted butterfly sipping nectar in  
the winter days.

*I Believe In Florida*, land of romantic legend and adventurous history, of  
towns the most ancient and the newest, of swiftly-growing cities, of farms and or-  
chards, and of wide and inviting solitudes still awaiting man's coming.

*I Believe In Florida*, magnet and meeting-place for men and women of the  
North and the South, the East and the West, and countries over-sea, Americans all,  
one blended and indissoluble and free people. I believe in her eager boys and  
winsome girls, in her schools and colleges, in her churches of divers faiths, in her  
institutions of philanthropy and mercy, and in her press, the voice and the instruc-  
tor of her common mind and will.

*In Fine, I Believe In Florida*, the commonwealth old yet young, un-  
formed as yet but palpitant with energy and faring forth into the future with high  
hope and swift step; and believing thus, I COVENANT with all her citizens of  
like mind to give myself to her service, mind and heart and hand and purse, to ex-  
plore and develop her hidden resources, to celebrate her praises truthfully, to win  
worthy citizens for her void spaces, to till her fields, to keep pure her politics, to  
make more efficient her schools, to strengthen and unify her churches, to cleanse  
and sweeten her social life, and thus to make her in full fact what she is by human  
right and Divine dower

The Queen of Commonwealths

